

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026: First Match Mexico vs South Africa - Opening Match Ceremony and Preview

The FIFA World Cup 2026 opening match features Mexico vs South Africa in Group A. This fixture is especially interesting because the same teams also played in the opening match of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Sixteen years later, they meet again to launch another historic World Cup tournament.

Mexico enters the tournament with the advantage of playing at home. The Mexican national team will be looking to start strongly and build momentum in front of thousands of supporters at the iconic stadium in Mexico City. South Africa, meanwhile, returns to the World Cup stage after missing recent editions and will be eager to make a statement against the host nation.



The FIFA World Cup 2026 features an unprecedented three-nation opening ceremony, with individual host ceremonies kicking off for each country. The main curtain-raiser happens in **Mexico City** on **June 11** at the iconic 90 minutes before Mexico's opening match against South Africa.

Key Schedule and Locations

Because the tournament spans three nations , Mexico, and the United States), fans get three distinct, star-studded celebrations, each taking place exactly 90 minutes before the first game in that host nation:

- **Mexico City:** Thursday, June 11 at 11:30 AM local time, leading into Mexico vs. South Africa.
- **Toronto:** Friday, June 12 at 1:30 PM local time, leading into Canada's first match.
- **Los Angeles:** Friday, June 12 at 4:30 PM local time, at  [SoFi Stadium](#)

Headlining Performers

FIFA has curated a massive, cross-continental musical lineup spanning the three ceremonies:

- **Mexico City:** Global icons **Shakira** and **Burna Boy** are headlining to perform the official World Cup anthem, "*Dai Dai*". They are joined by regional superstars including Alejandro Fernández, J Balvin, Maná, Belinda, Danny Ocean, Lila Downs, and Los Ángeles Azules.
- **Los Angeles (USA):** The all-star US ceremony is headlined by **Katy Perry**, **Future**, **Anitta**, **LISA**, **Rema**,

For highlights of the spectacular ceremonies and live performances across the host nations:

[World Cup 2026 Opening Ceremony](#)  



[YouTube · Festival Universe](#)

If you are planning to watch the ceremonies, let me know:

- Your **time zone or location** so I can calculate the exact local broadcast time.
- Which **host country's ceremony** you are most interested in.

I can help you find the **official broadcast schedules** or watch parties!

Mexico City to host opening match of World Cup 2026 - FIFA

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[Who is performing at the World Cup 2026 opening ceremony and why are three taking place?](#)

[London Evening Standard](#)

[When is World Cup 2026 opening ceremony? Start time and who is performing at tournament curtain-raiser](#)

[FIFA World Cup 2026 opening ceremonies: Shakira, Tyla, J Balvin headline acts - Everything you need to know](#)